



Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2024

Sweden

Simplified requirements for certain residence permit applications

Executive summary

On 16 May 2024, the Migration Agency announced a new pilot program that will enable all eligible residence permit applicants located outside Sweden to submit their passports electronically during the application process, without visiting a Swedish embassy or consulate.

Background

Prior to 1 November 2022, individuals who sought to work and reside in Sweden were required to upload a copy of their passport online during the work and residence permit application process. Beginning 1 November 2022, as a security measure, the [Migration Agency](#) made it mandatory for all first-time work and residence permit applicants to present their original passports at a Swedish embassy or consulate during the application process. This requirement also applied to work permit holders who sought to extend their residence permits. These individuals were required to present their original passports at an office of the Migration Agency in Sweden during the extension application process if their passport had not been verified previously by the Agency (e.g., as part of another immigration application process).

Key developments

As part of the new pilot program, set to be initiated in the last week of May 2024, the Migration Agency will launch a new service on the mobile app called Freja, which will allow nationals of the following 23 jurisdictions to submit a copy of their passports electronically (instead of doing so in person): Albania, Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia,

Georgia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, North Macedonia, New Zealand, Peru, Taiwan, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, South Korea, Ukraine, the UK and the US.

Eligible individuals who apply for first-time work or residence permits will receive an automated email containing a personalized link where they can upload a copy of their passport. Applicants must download the Freja app, scan their passport and complete a facial recognition process. They must then upload a copy of their passport using the link within seven days of receiving it.

Those who use the digital passport verification service via the Freja app will also be able to use the app to create an electronic signature (known as an “e-ID”), which they can use throughout the immigration application process. Once their application is approved and they obtain a Swedish personal identity number or coordination number (which is the primary form of identification in Sweden), they can upgrade the e-ID created via the app to a Swedish e-ID.

The pilot program will not impact residence permit holders who apply to extend their permits. These individuals will still be required to present their passports to the Migration Agency in person if their passport has not been verified previously by the Agency.

It is expected that the digital passport verification method will be expanded and made part of the standard application process upon successful completion of the pilot program.

Impact on employers

This change is expected to benefit employers by reducing processing times for new work and residence permit applications.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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